JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFES THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., a New Jersey Non Profit Corporation, (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff UNION (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			DEFENDANTS REAL / TECH INVESTMENT GROUP, L.P., a Pennsylvania Limited Partnership, County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Philadelphia (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.			
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in	One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF	PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintity	
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	★ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)		(For Diversity Cases Only)	PTF DEF 1	and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF Principal Place	
2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizens.	hip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2 2 Incorporated and		
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IV. NATURE OF SUI	[Place an "X" in One Box O	n(v)	Foreign Country	Click have four Not	- FO 1-O 1 P 1-1	
CONTRACT		ORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	of Suit Code Descriptions. OTHER STATUTES	
□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 462 Personal Injury Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER: 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage 385 Property Damage 70 Other Personal Product Liability PRISONER PETITION 11 Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 690 Other 690 Other Standards 710 Fair Labor Standards 720 Labor/Management 720 Labor/Management 721 Family and Medical 690 Other Labor Litigation 791 Employee Retirement 690 Other Labor Litigation 791 Other Labor Litigation 791 Employee Retirement 690 Other Labor Litigation 791 Employee Retirement 791 Employee	422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 830 Patent 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY 361 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 365 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	OTHER STATUTES □ 375 False Claims Act □ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	N Brief description of car	ericans with Disabiliti use:	filing (Do not cite jurisdictional state es Act - 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12	181, et seq.		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 23	IS A CLASS ACTION	mmodation for individuals v DEMAND \$		if demanded in complaint:	
VIII. RELATED CASE	(See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER	- rec Settle	
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA DIVISION

THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., a New Jersey Non Profit Corporation,

Plaintiff,

REAL/TECH INVESTMENT GROUP, L.P., a Pennsylvania Limited Partnership,

Defend	ant.		

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., a New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation, on its behalf and on behalf of all other mobility-impaired individuals similarly-situated, (sometimes referred to as "Plaintiff"), hereby sues the Defendant, REAL/TECH INVESTMENT GROUP, L.P., a Pennsylvania Limited Partnership, (herein sometimes referred to as "Defendant"), for Injunctive Relief, and attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12181 et seq. ("ADA").

- Plaintiff, THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., is a non-profit corporation formed under the laws of the State of New Jersey and maintains its principal office at 1002 Central Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974-1030, in the County of Union.
- Defendant's property, Swarthmorewood Shopping Center is located at 755 S Chester Rd,
 Swarthmore, PA 19081 in the County of Delaware.
- 3. Venue is properly located in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania because venue lies in the judicial district of the property situs. The Defendant's property is located in and does business within this judicial district.

- 4. Pursuant to 28 USC § 1331 and 28 USC § 1343, this Court has been given original jurisdiction over actions which arise from the Defendant's violations of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12181 et seq. See, also, 28 USC § 2201 and § 2202.
- 5. Plaintiff, THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., is a non-profit New Jersey corporation. Members of this organization include individuals with disabilities as defined by the ADA, and are representative of a cross-section of the disabilities to be protected from discrimination by the ADA. The purpose of this organization is to represent the interest of its members by assuring places of public accommodation are accessible to and usable by the disabled and that its members are not discriminated against because of their disabilities. THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC. and its members have suffered and will continue to suffer direct and indirect injury as a result of the Defendant's discrimination until the Defendant is compelled to comply with the requirements of the ADA. One or more of its members has suffered an injury that would allow it to bring suit in its own right. THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC. has been discriminated against because of its association with its disabled members and their claims.
- 6. DENNIS MAURER is a New Jersey resident, and qualifies as an individual with disabilities as defined by the ADA. Mr. Maurer has multiple sclerosis and is mobility impaired, and uses a wheelchair for mobility. Mr. Maurer is a member of the Plaintiff organization, THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., discussed above in paragraph 5.
- 7. Mr. Maurer has been to the subject property numerous times. The barriers to access as set forth herein have endangered his safety. He plans to return to the subject property in

the near future. Mr. Maurer has been a resident of South Jersey his entire life, and regularly travels to Philadelphia to see friends, to eat, to shop and to go to shows, concerts and sporting events, and to go to Parx Casino and Race Track. In conjunction with his activities in Philadelphia, he enjoys looking for the best Philly cheesesteaks. Mr. Maurer is an avid horseman, and is a retired former thoroughbred trainer in the state of New Jersey. He trained horses at Philadelphia Park in the 80's and 90's.

- 8. Defendant owns, leases, leases to, or operates a place of public accommodation as defined by the ADA and the regulations implementing the ADA, 28 CFR 36.201(a) and 36.104. Defendant is responsible for complying with the obligations of the ADA. The place of public accommodation that the Defendant owns, operates, leases or leases to is known as Swarthmorewood Shopping Center, and is located at 755 S Chester Rd, Swarthmore, PA 19081.
- 9. THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC. and DENNIS MAURER have a realistic, credible, existing and continuing threat of discrimination from the Defendant's non-compliance with the ADA with respect to the property as described but not necessarily limited to the allegations in paragraph 11 of this Complaint. Plaintiff has reasonable grounds to believe that they will continue to be subjected to discrimination in violation of the ADA by the Defendant. DENNIS MAURER desires to visit Swarthmore Shopping Center not only to avail himself of the goods and services available at the property but to assure himself that the property is in compliance with the ADA so that he and others similarly-situated will have full and equal enjoyment of the property without fear of discrimination.

- 10. The Defendant has discriminated against the individual Plaintiff and members of the corporate Plaintiff organization by denying them access to, and full and equal enjoyment of, the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of the buildings, as prohibited by 42 USC § 12182 et seq.
- 11. The Defendant has discriminated, and is continuing to discriminate, against the Plaintiff in violation of the ADA by failing to, inter alia, have accessible facilities by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if Defendants have 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). A preliminary inspection of the Swarthmore Shopping Center has shown that violations exist. These violations which DENNIS MAURER personally encountered or observed, include, but are not limited to:

Parking and Exterior Accessible Route

- a) Swarthmorewood Shopping Center provides accessible parking that is not maintained, lacks identification signage, contains spaces which lack access aisles and fails to provide an accessible route from parking, violating Sections 402 and 502 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. These conditions during numerous visits caused Mr. Maurer to Double Park to ensure he could exit/enter his van and prevented Mr. Maurer from unloading from his van freely and safely.
- b) Curb ramps provided to access stores at Swarthmorewood Shopping Center are unsafe for wheelchair users and are not provided in some areas of the center. The curb ramps contain excessive slopes, abrupt changes of level and lack level landings, violating Sections 402 and 406 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Curb ramps with excessive slopes are a hazard to Mr. Maurer and put him in danger of tipping over.
- c) Ramps at Swarthmorewood Shopping Center lack accessibility including excessive slopes, lack of handrails and fail to provide a level landing, violating Section 405 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Improper ramps are a tipping hazard for Mr. Maurer.
- d) Swarthmorewood Shopping Center fails to provide the required amount of compliant accessible parking spaces, violating Section 502 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. The lack of accessible parking makes Mr. Maurer park in open areas so he can unload freely and safely from his vehicle.

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- e) The exterior accessible route from parking spaces and along the sidewalk at Swarthmorewood Shopping Center contains severe abrupt changes of level greater than ¼ inch, slopes beyond 2.0% and lacks a direct route to ramps or curb ramps, violating Section 402 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Mr. Maurer was forced to travel in the traffic area of the center while avoiding abrupt changes of level to get to the curb ramp.
- f) Swarthmorewood Shopping Center fails to provide a safe accessible route to the adjacent bus stop, street or sidewalk, violating Section 206.2.1 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. The lack of an accessible route prevents the option of public transportation for Mr. Maurer.

Access to Goods and Services

- g) Swarthmorewood Shopping Center including Dollar Magic and 320 Market Cafe fail to provide lowered counters and certain elements are mounted beyond the reach of Mr. Maurer, violating Sections 308 and 904 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Mr. Maurer required assistance while checking out at Swarthmorewood Shopping Center.
- h) Entering tenants is impeded by abrupt changes of level at the base and/or slopes beyond limits, violating Section 404 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Abrupt changes of level can cause damage to Mr. Maurer's wheelchair.
- 320 Market Cafe fail to provide accessible dining tables for those in wheelchairs, violating Section 902 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Mr. Maurer was unable to dine comfortably due to a lack of accessible tables.

Restrooms

- j) Restrooms at 320 Market Cafe were reported to be unsafe for use by the plaintiff. Inspection revealed Mr. Maurer was unable to use the restrooms safely due to a lack of accessibility. Including, inaccessible water closets which lack proper controls and wheelchair maneuvering space violating Section 601 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards.
- k) Restrooms at 320 Market Cafe provide dispensers beyond reach of Mr. Maurer and are inaccessible to the plaintiff, violating Section 308 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards.
- 320 Market Cafe provide restrooms that contain improper centerlines for the water closets and lack proper grab bars, violating Section 604 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Mr. Maurer was unable to access the water closet due to a lack of maneuvering space.
- m) Using restrooms doors 320 Market Cafe is impeded by round door knobs, improper signage and/or a lack of maneuvering clearance, violating Section 404 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Lack of latch side clearance, stored goods and maneuvering space impede Mr. Maurer from easily accessing doors.

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Maintenance

- n) The accessible features of the facility are not maintained, creating barriers to access for the Plaintiff, as set forth herein, in violation of 28 CFR 36.211.
- 12. All of the foregoing cited violations are violations of both the 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act Guidelines (ADAAG) and the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design, as adopted by the Department of Justice.
- 13. The discriminatory violations described in paragraph 11 are not an exclusive list of the Defendant's ADA violations. Plaintiff requires the inspection of the Defendant's place of public accommodation in order to photograph and measure all of the discriminatory acts violating the ADA and all of the barriers to access. The individual Plaintiff, the members of the Plaintiff group, and all other individuals similarly-situated, have been denied access to, and have been denied the benefits of services, programs and activities of the Defendant's buildings and its facilities, and have otherwise been discriminated against and damaged by the Defendant because of the Defendant's ADA violations, as set forth above. The individual Plaintiff, the members of the Plaintiff group and all others similarly-situated will continue to suffer such discrimination, injury and damage without the immediate relief provided by the ADA as requested herein. In order to remedy this discriminatory situation, the Plaintiff requires an inspection of the Defendant's place of public accommodation in order to determine all of the areas of non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 14. Defendant has discriminated against the individual and corporate Plaintiffs by denying them access to full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of its place of public accommodation or commercial

facility in violation of 42 USC § 12181 et seq. and 28 CFR. 36.302 et seq. Furthermore, the Defendant continues to discriminate against the Plaintiff, and all those similarly-situated by failing to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing to take such efforts that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services.

- 15. Plaintiff is without adequate remedy at law and is suffering irreparable harm.

 Considering the balance of hardships between the Plaintiff and Defendant, a remedy in equity is warranted. Furthermore, the public interest would not be disserved by a permanent injunction. Plaintiff has retained the undersigned counsel and is entitled to recover attorney's fees, costs and litigation expenses from the Defendant pursuant to 42 USC § 12205 and 28 CFR 36.505.
- 16. Defendant is required to remove the existing architectural barriers to the physically disabled, when such removal is readily achievable for its place of public accommodation that has existed prior to January 26, 1992, 28 CFR 36.304(a); in the alternative, if there has been an alteration to Defendant's place of public accommodation since January 26, 1992, then the Defendant is required to ensure to the maximum extent feasible, that the altered portions of the facility are readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs, 28 CFR 36.402; and finally, if the Defendant's facility is one which was designed and constructed for first occupancy

- subsequent to January 26, 1993, as defined in 28 CFR 36.401, then the Defendant's facility must be readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities as defined by the ADA.
- 17. Notice to Defendant is not required as a result of the Defendant's failure to cure the violations by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if Defendants have 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). All other conditions precedent have been met by Plaintiffs or waived by the Defendants.
- 18. Pursuant to 42 USC § 12188, this Court is provided with authority to grant Plaintiff
 Injunctive Relief, including an order to require the Defendant to alter the
 Swarthmorewood Shopping Center to make those facilities readily accessible and useable
 to the Plaintiff and all other persons with disabilities as defined by the ADA; or by
 closing the facility until such time as the Defendant cures its violations of the ADA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully request:

- a. The Court issue a Declaratory Judgment that determines that the Defendant at the commencement of the subject lawsuit are in violation of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12181 et seq.
- b. Injunctive relief against the Defendant including an order to make all readily achievable alterations to the facility; or to make such facility readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA; and to require the Defendant to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing

to take such steps that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services.

- c. An award of attorney's fees, costs and litigation expenses pursuant to 42 USC § 12205.
- d. Such other relief as the Court deems just and proper, and/or is allowable under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Order shall further require the Defendant to maintain the required assessable features on an ongoing basis.

Date: March (7, 2020)

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Dessen, Esquire, (PA Bar No. 17627)

DESSEN, MOSES & ROSSITTO

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Email: jpf@fullerfuller.com

Counsel for Plaintiff

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

The Independence Project, Inc.			CMLACTION		
V.,		E N			
Real/Tech Investme	nt Group, L.P.	:	NO.		
filing the complaint and serv side of this form.) In the ev designation, that defendant	we a copy on all def we a copy on all def went that a defend shall, with its first rties, a Case Mana	endants. (See§ 1 ant does not agr appearance, sub	action Plan of this court, count in Form in all civil cases at the ti i03 of the plan set for thon the re ee with the plain tiff regarding mit to the clerk of court and ser esignation Form specifying the id.	ime of everse g said	
SELECT ONE OF THE F	OLLOWING C	ASE MANAGI	EMENT TRACKS:		
(a) Habeas Corpus— Cases brought under 28 U.S.C.§ 2241 through§ 2255.					
(b) Social Security— Cases r and Human Services de	equesting review on the requesting review of the requesting plaintiff Society (see Figure 1) and the requesting review of the review of th	of a decision of the	ne Secretary of Health efits.	()	
(c) Arbitration— Cases requi	ired to be designat	ed for arbitration	under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	()	
(d) Asbestos — Cases involvi exposure to asbestos.	ng claims for pers	onal injury or pro	perty damage from	()	
(e) Special Management— Commonly referred to as the court. (See reverses	complex and that	need special or in	tense management by	()	
management cases.)					
(f) Standard Management-Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks.					
3 17 2020 Date	Attorney-at-	<u>Oe</u>	Plaintiff Attorney for		
215-496-2902	215-658-0747		ddessen@dms-lawye	er.com	
Telephone Telephone	FAXNumb	er	E-Mail Address		

(Civ. 660) 10/02

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff:	1002 Central Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974-1030				
Address of Defendant:	428 N 2nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123				
Place of Accident, Incident or Transacti	755 S Chester Road, Swarthmore, PA 19081				
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:					
Case Number:	Judge: Date Terminated:				
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is a					
 Is this case related to property included previously terminated action in this cou 	in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year Yes No				
pending or within one year previously t					
 Does this case involve the validity or in numbered case pending or within one year 	ringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier Yes No No				
4. Is this case a second or successive haber case filed by the same individual?	s corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights Yes No				
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within cathis court except as noted above. DATE: 3 17 20 20	se is / is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in Attorney ID # (if applicable)				
	Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)				
CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only)					
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:				
 Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract FELA Jones Act-Personal Injury Antitrust Patent Labor-Management Relations Civil Rights Habeas Corpus Securities Act(s) Cases Social Security Review Cases All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify): 	1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2. Airplane Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): 7. Products Liability 8. Products Liability — Asbestos 9. All other Diversity Cases (Please specify):				
	ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION	\neg			
ı, David S. Dessen	e effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.) , counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:				
exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 excl	3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case sive of interest and costs:				
Relief other than monetary damages	is sought.				
DATE: 3/17/2020	Attorney 1.D. # (if applicable)				
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if	in (y apprendict)				

Civ. 609 (5/2018)